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SUSTAINING

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS (#106)

12:30 - 1:10 PM

JUNE 14, 1934

FRIDAY

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers"

ORCHESTRA: CLARINET: RANGER SONG

ANNOUNCER: In certain localities within our National Forests the grazing of livestock is handicapped by many kinds of poisonous plants. Larkspur, monardella, death camas, wild parsnip and mountain clover usually rank their toll of cattle and sheep. Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers are continuously working to eradicate these plants as fast as funds for the work become available. Since the inauguration of the Civilian Conservation Corps the rangers have been able to accomplish considerably more of this work through the help of the CCC boys.

When in the course of their range inspections the rangers discover a plant where a poisonous plant occurs in such quantity as to menace the health of the range stock, he marks the area for treatment. Instructors with cutlasses are then sent in to grub out the noxious weeds and destroy them.

Up at the Pine Cone Ranger District, our friends Ranger Jim Housley and Jerry Quirk are today conducting a poisonous plant eradication job which the CCC boys are doing. But right now, Jerry seems quite concerned over the fact that Mary Halloway, the school teacher at Windy Creek, may be forced to resign her position. You remember, we learned the other day that the president of the school board had demanded her resignation. Listen --

JIM: They will. Paul knows how to get a job done, all right --
 whoa -- this way, Dolly --

JERRY: What you going this way for?

JIM: I want to stop and look over that cow-range on Rapid Creek
 below Larkepur Mountain.

JERRY: That's where that stuff you call wild carrot is spreading
 so fast?

JIM: Yes. It's covered about a hundred acres of that range, now.
 Whoa, Dolly. (HORSES STOP)

JERRY: What's the matter? Trail blocked, Jim?

JIM: Yeah, - tree fell across it -- Hmm, it's a bad place to get
 around, too. You'd better chop it out, Jerry.

JERRY: I didn't bring an axe.

JIM: I thought I got you one of those light axes to carry on your
 saddle.

JERRY: I guess you did, Jim -- but I didn't bring it.

JIM: (SARCASTICALLY) A lot of good it will do yuh - hanging in
 the storeroom.

JERRY: I guess we can get around it - pretty steep, though.

JIM: Too steep. Break off a couple of those limbs and we'll
 jump it.

JERRY: Yeah, we can do that.

(SOUND OF BREAKING LIMBS)

JIM: (MOUNTING) All right - Come on, Dolly. (HORSE JUMPS) - (OFF)
 You comin', Jerry?

JERRY: Yeah -- Whoa, now (HORSE JUMPS) Now!

JIM: Hey there! Whoa, Spark, whoa, boy. (UP CHUCKLES) What's the idea of hanging there on Spark's neck?

JERRY: The doggone beast jumped before I was ready (LAUGHS) I wasn't expecting to do any necking out here in the hills either.

JIM: I told you you'd get that horse skittery. -- We'd better get some of the CCC boys up at the ill camp to cut that tree out of the way.

JERRY: Yeah.

JIM: Come on, we gotta be travelin'. Shake a leg, Dolly.

JERRY: Giddyap, Spark. (HORSES WALK)
(PAUSE)

JERRY: Whoa (HORSES STOP) Here's one of your "wild Carrots" Jim.

JIM: What's it. I didn't know it'd gotten started here.

JERRY: It grows larger than this, doesn't it?

JIM: Yes. Sometimes two or three feet high. There's a lot of it right up here in the canyon. Come on, I'll show you. Get along, Dolly. (HORSES WALK)
(PAUSE)

JERRY: Is that Paul's spike camp up there, Jim?

JIM: Yeah. We'll go up there pretty soon. -- Well, -- hello Pinkie! Whoa, Dolly. (HORSES STOP)

PINKIE: (COMING UP) Hello Ranger

JIM: Where yuh goin' Pink?

PINKIE: Here's a good one for yuh. I'll put it up. - Ooo! some root - broke off right at the top.

JIM: You can't pull 'em up. The top looks like a carrot but the roots are kinda like a parsnip. Here, Pink, let me have your mattock a minute.

PINKIE: I'll dig yuh one. (DIGS) There - heck I cut off about half of the roots.

JIM: You've got to get deeper - a foot down, sometimes, to get 'em all

PINKIE: Here's one. (DIGS WITH MATTOCK) - There - That's one all right, ain't it?

JIM: Yeah - that's the same thing - I found some just like it last year further down the canyon. It looks something like a carrot don't it?

JERRY: I don't think it is a carrot, Jim! Wait a minute, I've got a suspicion. I saw some specimens something like this once.

JIM: Yeah?

JERRY: I've got my plant reference book in the saddle bag.
(GOING OFF) Let's see if we can check it up - (PAUSE) -
(COMING UP) Here - wait a minute - let's see - (TURNS LEAVES)
Um- um - "hemlock" - see conium - c - c - o - n - Here we are, I bet this is it. It says: "A biennial, grows 2 - 3 feet high when in flower"

JIM: It's a biennial all right. I guess it ain't a carrot gone wild like I thought.

JERRY: The plant looks just like this picture. I bet that's what it is all right. Yes sir, its Poison Hemlock. It says it's very poisonous.

PINKIE: Holy Smoke! I was just goin' to eat one - I like carrots.

JIM: Poison hemlock, huh? That's a poison plant, isn't it?

JERRY: Yeah.

JIM: If this plant was poisonous it would have killed all the stock around here. So far as I know, no cattle have died from eating it.

JERRY: Maybe it's unpalatable and they won't touch it.

JIM: It must be.

PINKIE: It hain't no carrot. If it was the horses would be eating it. They love carrots.

JIM: That's darned good reasoning, Pinkie.

JERRY: Jim, what made you think it was a wild carrot?

JIM: Well, I saw it first down by old Gannysack Brown's garden - patch and I thought maybe it was just volunteer stuff that came up from seed scattered from his garden.

JERRY: Well, its volunteer stuff all right. It isn't native to this country, so the seed must have been imported some way. How long has it been since you first saw it, Jim?

JIM: Along about nineteen and fifteen or sixteen. Maybe it's lucky you ran it down, Jerry.

JERRY: We'd better plan on eradicating it while we have the CCC boys here, huh, Jim?

JIM: Yes. I believe we should. We better not allow it to spread any farther.

JERRY: Say, Jim, it was a hemlock brew that they gave old Socrates when they wanted to execute him.

JIM: Yes - something of that kind.

JERRY: Well, it was this same plant they used - can you tell that?
Growing right here on our ranger district.

PINKIE: Socrates, huh? The darned old mutt was lucky at that.

JIM: Lucky? Maybe so, why?

PINKIE: He didn't have to dig any of the doggoned stuff.

JIM & JERRY (LAUGH
(LOUD YELLING OFF)

JIM: What's that?

PINKIE: Gee! It's the boys. (RUNNING OFF) Somethin' musta happened.

JIM: Guess I'd better investigate, too.

JERRY: There they are! (YELLS INCREASE, OFF)

JIM: What's up? They're running every direction.

JERRY: Maybe it's a bear!

JIM: (LAUGHS) Nope. No chance. If it was a bear those boys
would be chasing it.

JERRY: What in thunder do you suppose is the matter? - Look!
Pinkie's running now.

JIM: Well I'll be - (LAUGHS) I get it. Hold on, Jerry!

JERRY: Well, what the heck is it?

JIM: (CHUCKLING) The kids musta stirred up one of those
yellow-jackets' nests. They're thick around here.

PINKIE: (COMING UP) (PUFFING) Keep back, gents, them aspen trees
is lousy with them, Blasted yaller-jackets.

JIM: (BANTERING) I never thought you'd run from a little thing
like that, Pink.

PINKIE: Yeah? If one of them little things 'd stung you on the seat o' the pants, I'll bet you'd run, too. (LAUGHTER)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(DOOR OPENS)

JERRY: (COMING UP) I looked after the horses, Jim.

JIM: Good.

JERRY: That was a pretty long trip we made today.

JIM: Yep.

JERRY: I wonder if supper's ready - (CALLS) Hey, Mrs. Robbins, is supper ready?

BESS: (OFF) Not quite, Jerry.

JERRY: Say, have you seen Mary today, Mrs. Robbins?

BESS: (UP) No, not yet, Jerry. But I left word for her to stop by here for supper. She'll probably be coming pretty soon.

JERRY: (GLUM) Sort of a farewell party, huh - with her losing her job?

BESS: (CHEERILY) I hope not. (GOING OFF) I've got to go 'tend to my biscuits.

JERRY: All right - Gosh, Jim - I guess they 're going to squeeze Mary out of her job all right.

JIM: Well - I ain't worryin' much.

JERRY: (ANGRY) You ain't, huh? It's a dirty mean trick - that's what it is. - Mary's the best teacher they ever had here and they're making her quit just so that Mr. Black can get that flapper daughter of his the job.

JIM: Yep. It would be kind of a mean trick.

JERRY: Would be? It is a dirty town! Look, here's Mary now --
(DOOR OPENS)

MARY: (OFF) May I come in?

JIM: Sure. Come in, Mary.

JERRY: Hello Mary.

MARY: (UP, GLUM) Well -- the school board meets tonight, Mr. Robbins.

JIM: Yep. So it does.

MARY: And -- I guess I -- I guess I'm going to have to put in my resignation.

JIM: Is that so?

MARY: What else can I do? If I don't, I'll be discharged -- and that would make it harder than ever.

JIM: Well, now, -- I wouldn't be worryin', Miss.

JERRY: (ANGRY) But what can she do? If she doesn't resign they'll fire her.

MARY: You know Mr. Black controls a majority of the school board.

JIM: Yep. (CHUCKLES) But that ain't sayin' who controls Mr. Black.

JERRY: Oh -- What do you mean?

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Better ask Bees, I reckon.

JERRY: Why? What's happened?

JIM: Well, the Ladies Aid had a meeting yesterday afternoon, so I hear, and I understand things've kinda changed around a little.

JERRY: How -- how do you mean? -- (CALLS) Hey, Mrs. Robbins.

BEES: (OFF) Yes, Jerry -- What is it?

JERRY: What's this about the Ladies Aid -- and Mary?

BESS: (COMING UP) Oh, hello, Mary, you're just in time - Why, nothing much, Jerry - We just had a meeting yesterday afternoon and.... most of the wives of the members of the school board were there and - we got to talking about what a wonderful teacher Mary was and - Mrs. Black thought her daughter ought to get a position in the city where she'll have more opportunities, you know --

JERRY: Yeah but - but what happened?

BESS: Oh, nothing, specially - only Mrs. Black phoned today and said her husband had decided he wanted to renew Mary's contract to teach here next year.

JERRY: Huh? - Say - I bet you were behind it all. - Gee, Mrs. Robbins, you're a brick!

MARY: Oh, Mrs. Robbins!

(FADE OUT)

ANNOUNCER: And is that good news? We're not going to lose Mary after all. Next Friday at this time, Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers will be with us again. This program is presented by the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

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8:45 AM

